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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/646,715	11/16/2000	Timothy G.J. Jones	57.0272PCT	6188

7590

05/20/2003

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EXAMINER

LIPMAN, BERNARD

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1713

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2003

14

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER
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14

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Commissioner for Patents

See the attached.

Art Unit 1713

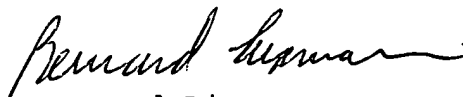
1. The reply filed on March 18, 2003 is not fully responsive to the prior Office action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): Applicants have failed to elect an ultimate species. Applicants have interpreted the Examiner's comments as identifying a single species which all the claims read on. This interpretation is incorrect insofar as specific species of combinations of specific polymers and specific cross-linking agents are called for in the election of species requirement. In order to clarify this, let the Examiner point out that claims 34-38 specifically identify various polymers as the hydrophobically modified polymers with specific hydrophilic backbones which backbones need to be identified as to any chemical modification thereof. Furthermore the cross-linking agents are identified in claims 41-43. Other possibilities are also disclosed and can be elected by the applicants by the combination of all characteristics of the polymer which result in a final species of single structure needs to be identified for election of ultimate species. The election requirement is, therefore, still pending and needs resolution. See 37 CFR 1.111.

Serial No. 09/646,715

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Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. Extensions of this time period may be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a).



Bernard Lipman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1713

BL:cdc
May 19, 2003